

THE
Thurrock Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

AND THE REPORTS OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

and the Public Analyst

For the Year 1962

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1962)

Chairman : M. B. JONES

Vice-Chairman : J. CLARKE

Councillors : A. F. BARNES

F. E. T. BENSON

P. C. BURMAN

F. G. COTTON

Mrs. L. A. DEXTER

J. FLETCHER

C. B. HERCOCK

J. A. JACKSON

URBAN DISTRICT OF THURROCK

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health :

R. D. PEARCE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer for South Essex (Essex County Health Services).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

P. J. RODEN, L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

H. A. GOSLING, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. M. ANDERSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

Public Health Inspectors :

R. A. BULL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3) (Retired 21.12.62)

D. G. STRIPP, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

S. ROUSE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2)

S. A. HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2)

J. L. MCGARRY, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2)

G. R. DOVEY, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2)

(1) Indicates Certificates: R.S.I. and S.I. Exam. Jt.Bd.

(2) Indicates Certificate: Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

(3) Indicates Certificate: Smoke Inspection.

Public Analyst :

THOS. MCLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C.

Clerical Assistant—Public Health Department :

Mrs. D. SAYERS

Chief Clerk—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department :

J. T. AUSTIN (Until 4.2.62)

S. V. EDWARDS (From 12.3.62)

Trainee Public Health Inspectors :

J. MALTON

G. L. PAGE, Affil. R.S.H.

Clerical Assistants—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department :

Mrs. E. BROWNE

Mrs. E. CLAYDEN

Rodent Officer :

C. L. WILKINSON

Rodent Operative :

J. PERRY

Mortuary Attendant :

C. PARSLEY

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health in the Thurrock Urban District for the Year 1962. In the Report is included that of the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. H. A. Gosling.

The population of the district increased by about 1,800 during the year, this is less than half of the increase in 1961. The total population of the district is now 115,430. The Birth and Death Rate continue to remain a little below the national average.

Last year I mentioned that the opening of the Purfleet-Dartford Tunnel would no doubt have some influence on our population and it is with interest that we shall await the opening of the Tunnel during 1963 and the observation of its influence in the forthcoming years.

The health of the population has remained at a high level. The number of notifications of Infectious Diseases was considerably less than in the previous year by reason of the low incidence of measles. One case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis was notified but the diagnosis was not confirmed, and two cases of non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis were notified although the diagnosis in one case was not confirmed. One hundred and twenty-eight cases of suspected Food Poisoning were notified but only three were confirmed bacteriologically. In considering food poisoning in general it is hoped that in 1963 arrangements can be made with the Thurrock Technical College to commence classes in food hygiene at which members of the staff of the Public Health Department would give instruction. Food poisoning is commonly caused by faulty food handling; germs present in the nose or bowel of the food handler being transferred to the food and thence, eventually, to the consumer. It is hoped that by the institution of courses in food handling, those in the catering and food supply industry in our district can be given the opportunity of learning the correct techniques.

In January a case of Smallpox occurred in Rainham in the adjoining Urban District of Hornchurch. The patient was, at the time, employed by a firm of Civil Engineering Contractors who were constructing a factory at Purfleet in this district. We were therefore faced with a large number of contacts and each was examined, offered vaccination and regularly visited for sixteen days, as part of the scheme to control the disease. Unfortunately many hundreds of people sought vaccination, local Practitioners and the Public Health Service were inundated with requests for

vaccination which were quite unnecessary. The outbreak was controlled from the outset and only those close contacts of the patient required to be vaccinated, and this was done forthwith. No cases of Smallpox occurred in Thurrock and we can, therefore, have confidence in the precautions that we took.

The Aircraft Industry are looking forward to producing aircraft in a few years' time which will fly at three times the speed of sound. The journey from the Middle and Far East to London will be measured almost in minutes. This speed of travel will magnify a problem, a problem that is already with us; the importation of disease, such as Smallpox. It is pretty obvious that when very high speed aircraft come into service, very much consideration will have to be given internationally to this subject.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified was greater than in the previous year. At first sight the conclusion may be reached that the incidence of the disease was increasing. The greater use of Mass Radiography Units and the efficiency achieved in seeking out the disease at its early stages and the investigation over a wide field of contacts of cases has been the cause of this increased number. Rather than suggest that the disease is increasing, I think it would be more true to say that more cases are being discovered early and it is only by discovering cases early that we can hope to achieve any material result in stamping out the disease entirely.

Taking a look into the future, the London Government Bill sets forth proposals which will make Thurrock one of the Westerly boundaries of the County of Essex. As far as the County Health Services are concerned it will initiate the break-up of the South Essex Health Area. The ten-year plan of development will proceed however; many clinics in Thurrock being scheduled for improvement or rebuilding. In the centre of the Town at Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham new clinics will be built within the next year or two. The development of Chadwell St. Mary will also require the provision of a new Health Services Clinic which has already been planned.

In conclusion once again it is a pleasure to record my gratitude to the members of the Public Health Department for their co-operation during the year, to the Council and Chief Officers and other Officials. I am greatly indebted for their co-operation and support.

Yours sincerely,

R. D. PEARCE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
34 Cresthill Avenue,
Grays, Essex.

Telephone: Grays Thurrock 4641/4.

SECTION "A"

Land Area of the District (in Acres)	42,000
Population (Registrar-General's Estimated Mid-Year 1962)	115,430
No. of Inhabited Houses or Flats (according to Rate Books as at 31.12.62)	32,310
Rateable Value (at 31.3.62)	£1,880,452
Product of a 1d. Rate (at 31.3.62)	£7,714

The Urban District of Thurrock stretches along the northern bank of the River Thames, having approximately 18 miles of river frontage. The area adjoining the river is industrial and contains two of the chief centres of population — Grays and Tilbury.

The principal industries are the manufacture of cement, margarine, cardboard, footwear, detergents, nitric acid and chemical fertilisers. In addition there are the oil refineries at Coryton and Shell Haven, the oil storage undertakings at Thames Haven, Grays and Purfleet and the docks at Tilbury.

Inland, the principal occupation is agriculture and the district includes many market gardens and dairy farms.

A large number of the inhabitants travel daily to work in London.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS	Thurrock Urban District	England and Wales
Live Births:		
Number—(977 Males, 947 Females) ...	1,924	
Rate per 1,000 estimated } (Crude) ...	16.67	
Mid-Year Home Population } (Adjusted) ...	14.66	18.0
Illegitimate Live Births percentage of total Live Births	4.16	

Stillbirths:

Number—(25 Males, 21 Females) ...	46	
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ...	23.35	18.1
Total live and stillbirths ...	1,970	

DEATHS

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year):

Number—(28 Males, 14 Females) ...	42	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	21.83	21.4
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate Live Births ...	21.69	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegiti- mate Live Births ...	25.00	
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks) (18 Males, 9 Females) per 1,000 total Live Births		
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week) (14 Males, 7 Females) per 1,000 total Live Births		
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total live and stillbirths		

Maternal Mortality (including abortion):

Number of deaths ...	2	
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ...	1.02	

All Causes:

Number—(545 Males, 401 Females) ...	946	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated Mid-Year Home Population (Crude) ...	8.20	
(Adjusted) ...	11.80	11.9

The following table has been supplied by the Registrar General: —

CAUSES OF DEATH					MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	545	401	946
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	18	12	30
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	34	—	34
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	11	11
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	6	6
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasm	...	...	...	...	51	38	89
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	6	3	9
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	3	7	10
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	48	51	99
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	131	58	189
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	34	50	84
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	18	27	45
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	39	41	80
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	42	23	65
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
31. Congenital malformation	...	...	...	...	8	4	12
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	48	40	88
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	13	3	16
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	17	5	22
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	1	—	1

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The staff of the Public Health Department have been enumerated at the commencement of this Report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Pathological Laboratory facilities are provided as in the past years by the N.E. Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board and whilst the main Laboratory is situated in Billericay at St. Andrew's Hospital, good facilities exist at Orsett Hospital in the area. The thanks of the Council to the Tilbury and South East Essex Hospital Management Committee should be given in that the co-operation received during the year has been extremely good. The list of examinations which can be carried out is very comprehensive and of a widely varying scope but relates very greatly to pathological reports upon such specimens as Cerebro-Spinal Fluids, blood, faeces, etc. In addition the area is served by the Public Health Laboratory at Southend-on-Sea where all examinations of milk, water, ice-cream, etc., are carried out. Biological examination of milk is undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory, London Road, Chelmsford. Virus investigations are also carried out by the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Chelmsford. These Public Health Laboratories are administered by the Medical Research Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The ambulance facilities in the district are adequate. The Service is administered centrally and is the responsibility of the Essex County Council. Over the last few years the number of vehicles and personnel have been increased very greatly. The ambulance service is an expensive service and every effort should be made by the users of the service to ensure that ambulances are not used when they are, in fact, not required. Certain of the larger local firms provide their own vehicles.

Ambulance Vehicles	...	...	...	5
Dual Purpose Vehicles	...	...	...	4
Total cases conveyed	...	...	...	45,584
Stretcher cases	...	...	3,805	
Other cases	...	...	41,779	
Total Mileage	...	...	...	238,094
Total emergency cases	...	...	...	3,074

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nursing Service of the area can be said to be reasonably well served although recruitment is difficult and there is a shortage of nursing staff. In the district as a whole there are employed 8 full-time and 4 part-time Nurses. The number of visits paid to patients' homes was 39,928 during 1962.

PROVISION OF NURSING APPLIANCES IN THE HOME.

On application numerous articles of equipment for the patients in their homes are supplied. Such articles include bedrests, bedpans, bed cradles, commodes, mattresses, wheelchairs in and out-door, air cushions, air rings, etc. The main depot for distribution is at Whitehall Lodge, Whitehall Lane, Grays. Nursing equipment on loan for the sick, does not, as a rule, include specialised equipment for the permanently incapacitated. This service is a very valuable service and much appreciated by patients and has been greatly extended during the year under review.

HEALTH CENTRES, COMBINED TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

On the following pages will be found a list of these clinics and treatment Centres. It should be noted that there is one Health Centre built in the Year 1955 from which not only the service of the Local Health Authority function, but also General Medical and Dental Services. In this Centre there are four suites of consulting rooms for Medical Practitioners and one suite for a Dental Practitioner, together with accommodation for the Local Health Authority Services for Speech Therapy and for Ophthalmology. In addition facilities have been made available to the Probation Officers, the Registrar of Births and Deaths and the Children's Officer.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The establishment of midwives in the area is 11 full-time and 7 part-time District Nurse/Midwives and it is becoming increasingly difficult to fill vacancies in this branch of the service. The co-operation of the Local Authority in providing housing accommodation is of great assistance in filling a vacant post.

HEALTH VISITING SERVICES.

The establishment for Thurrock is 9 whole-time and 1 part-time Health Visitors and 2 whole-time and 1 part-time Tuber-

culosis Health Visitors. The Health Visitors have to assist them 13 part-time School Nurses and one whole-time Clinic Nurse. The duties of the Health Visitors have been widely extended in the last few years to include domiciliary care of all within their areas, not only of mothers and young children but also the aged.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICES.

The staff for the Thurrock area comprises: —

(a) Full-time Domestic Helps	...	...	1
(b) Regular part-time Domestic Helps			132
(c) Casual Domestic Helps	...	...	154

This service has increased very greatly over the last ten years. The service, initiated for assistance to be given in households during confinements, is now very largely extended to chronic sick as well.

WOMEN'S WELFARE.

Women's Welfare Clinics are held at Grays, Aveley and the London County Council Estate. At these clinics advice is given on medical grounds in regard to family planning etc., in addition to the Family Planning Association Clinic held at the Grays Welfare Centre, The Park, Grays.

ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES CLINICS THURROCK DISTRICT

District	Details of Clinic	Address
Aveley	Child Welfare Ante-natal Women's Welfare Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, Hall Lane, Aveley
Aveley Health Centre	Child Welfare Ante-natal & Women's Welfare Minor Ailments Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Centre, Darenth Lane, Aveley
Bulphan	Mothers and Children either attend at Stanford or Grays	
Chadwell-St.-Mary	Child Welfare Ante-natal Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, River View, Chadwell-St.-Mary
Corringham	Child Welfare	Memorial Hall, Corringham

District	Details of Clinic	Address
East Tilbury	Child Welfare	The Bungalow, Station Road, East Tilbury
Grays	Child Welfare Ante-natal Women's Welfare Family Planning Old Aged Pensioners Chiropody Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, The Park, Grays
Horndon-on-the-Hill	Child Welfare	Community Hall, High Road, Horndon-on-the-Hill
Purfleet and West Thurrock	Child Welfare Ante-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, London Road, and Day Nursery, W. Thurrock
Stanford-le-Hope	Child Welfare Ante-natal Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, St. Margaret's Hall, Stanford-le-Hope
Grays North	Child Welfare Ante-natal Ante-natal Exercises Post-natal Exercises Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, Stifford Long Lane, Grays
Tilbury	Child Welfare Ante-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, Newton Road, Tilbury
South Ockendon	Child Welfare Ante-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, 107 South Road, South Ockendon

DAY NURSERIES.

There are two Day Nurseries in the area at Grays and West Thurrock. In each Nursery there are 30 places.

CHIROPODY.

One whole-time chiropodist who visits the homes of the aged and infirm and carries out treatment in the clinics is employed.

IMMUNISATION.

During 1962 the following Immunisation procedures were carried out either by private medical practitioners or by the staff of the Essex County Health Service.

Triple (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus).	783	...	Triple (Boosts) ...	207
Diphtheria/Tetanus.	367	...	Boosts ...	42
Tetanus	413	...	Boosts ...	148
Diphtheria	168	...	Boosts ...	497
Whooping Cough	203	...	Boosts ...	105
Smallpox vaccination	16,750	...	Re-Vaccination ...	18,594
Poliomyelitis				
1st and 2nd Injections	1,486	...	Boosts ...	3,730
Poliomyelitis (Oral)				
1st, 2nd and 3rd doses	1,327	...	Boosts ...	5,435

HOSPITAL SERVICES are provided by the North East Metropolitan Hospital Board at 3 hospitals.

1. Tilbury and Riverside General Hospital (Orsett Branch)
2. Tilbury and Riverside General Hospital (Tilbury Branch).
3. Thurrock Hospital—Diseases of the Chest, Tuberculosis.

A new out-patients Department has been built at Orsett Hospital to serve the district and a new hospital is planned and it is expected to commence building in the Autumn of 1963.

MOBILE MEALS.

The Women's Voluntary Services have a limited distribution of meals on certain days upon application. The Local Authority makes an annual grant of £450 towards this service. I am indebted to Mrs. G. F. Taylor, Organiser for the following information.

Grays Area: —

Approximate No. of Meals Distributed ...	6,545
Total Mileage	5,025

Stanford-le-Hope: —

Approximate No. of Meals Distributed ...	1,535
Total Mileage	525

HOUSING.

The Council have 8,984 Council Houses and in addition the London County Council, the East Ham Borough Council and the West Ham Borough Council have built estates. Despite this there still remains a total number of 2,903 upon the waiting list for houses. The allocation of Thurrock Council Houses is dealt with upon a points scheme and the Medical Officer of Health recommends extra points upon medical evidence submitted on behalf of the patients. During the year under review 169 cases were investigated and points awarded.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health medically examines entrants to the Council's Service and deals with medical questions arising in regard to examinations as to the fitness of an employee to remain in the Council's Service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47)

No action was taken during the year under the above Act.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

The South Essex Crematorium situated over the boundary of the district at Corbets Tey is carried on with the Borough of Romford and the Urban District of Hornchurch. The Medical Officers of Health of the constituent authorities act as Medical Referees and during the year the remains of 300 persons from the Thurrock area were disposed of.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE CITY AND PORT OF LONDON.

The Urban District of Thurrock contains Tilbury Docks, into which an enormous amount of shipping arrives and two Assistant Medical Officers of the Essex County Health Service working in the Thurrock district act as Boarding Officers.

SECTION "C"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASE	Notified	Confirmed	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	62	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	62	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute and Influenzal) ...	42	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	85	—	I	—
Whooping Cough ...	10	—	—	—
Measles ...	295	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	6	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	9	—	8	—
Food Poisoning ...	128	3	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	I	—	—	—
„ (Non-Paralytic)	2	I	2	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum	I	—	I	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE INCIDENCE ACCORDING TO
AGE GROUPS.

17

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 yrs. over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	4	13	38	5	2	—	62
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	—	5	35	25	8	12	85
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	9
Dysentery ...	4	6	4	6	5	15	22	62
Pneumonia ...	6	8	3	10	—	2	13	42
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Whooping Cough ...	1	2	4	3	—	—	—	10
Measles ...	7	83	78	120	4	2	1	295
Food Poisoning ...	4	11	3	16	12	12	70	128
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	1
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic) ...	—	—	1*	—	1	—	—	2
Pemphigus Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

* Diagnosis not confirmed.

FOOD POISONING, &C.

The number of cases of Suspected Food Poisoning, Dysentery etc., calls for much investigation and causes a great deal of work to the Public Health Department.

During the year 10 persons were excluded from work, and in no case was compensation for loss of earnings necessary.

It is the practice to take faecal specimens from each notified case of suspected food poisoning or dysentery and in the case of foodhandlers three negative specimens are required before he or she is permitted to resume work. Should any other member of the patient's family be suffering from diarrhoea and take part in the handling of food, exclusion from work takes place until three negative specimens have been obtained. In the case of school children three negative specimens are obtained before they are permitted to resume school.

The following table shows the number of faecal swabs submitted by the department to Orsett Hospital and I am indebted to the staff of the pathological laboratory for the ready willingness with which they have carried out the requests of the Health Department.

Taken From	Total	Negative	Positive		
			Staph. Pyogenes	Sal. Typ.	Shig. Sonnei
Food Handlers ...	66	59	4	3	—
Non-Food Handlers	182	174	1	—	7

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 yrs.	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 „	3	4	1	—	1	—	—	—
25-44 „	17	7	1	1	1	1	—	—
45-64 „	17	6	—	1	3	1	—	—
65 up-wards	3	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Totals	43	19	2	2	6	2	1	—

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SECTION "D"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The principal water supply of the area is provided by South Essex Waterworks Company, the vast majority of the premises in the district being served thereby. A small part of the area at Langdon Hills is served by the Southend Waterworks Company.

The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year and is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

No. of samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination: —

(a) From Public Mains	...	...	...	15
(b) From Wells, etc.	...	...	...	23

No. of samples taken and submitted for chemical examination: —

(a) From Public Mains	...	...	...	2
(b) From Wells	...	...	...	2

In the case of the mains samples, all were satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically.

Of the 23 samples submitted from wells, etc., for bacteriological examination, ten were found to be unsatisfactory. Seven of these referred to wells at South Ockendon and arrangements are being made for the two properties concerned to be connected to the Water Company's mains. This has only been possible by obtaining the consent of a local sand and ballast firm and the laying of a long length of piping through their land.

Both chemical samples from these wells proved to be satisfactory.

The remaining three samples were from an underground rain water storage tank serving a house at Fobbing. During the year the water supply to these premises failed on several occasions and it became necessary for the Council to provide water in receptacles from time to time. There is no possibility of the house being connected to the main and accordingly action was taken under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, which resulted in the service of a Demolition Order.

During the year seven properties, previously served by well water, were connected to the main despite the fact that the cost of connection exceeded the statutory limit of £60 per house.

No. of dwellinghouses supplied from public water mains direct	32,281
Estimated population served ...	115,333
No. of houses supplied from public water mains supplied by standpipes	20
Estimated population served ...	70
No. of houses served by wells or stored rain water	9
Estimated population served ...	27

Those properties supplied by standpipes refer to premises forming part of the Dunton Hills Estate. The laying of water mains would be very expensive and moreover, it is thought that some of the land will revert to agriculture in the not too distant future.

The few remaining houses supplied by wells are situated in the more remote rural portion of the area where the cost of providing a mains supply is very expensive. Nevertheless every effort will be made, with the co-operation of the owners to provide such a supply.

METEOROLOGICAL DETAILS.

Total amount of rain which fell during the year ...	17.03 ins.
Number of days on which rain fell	173
Heaviest rainfall on any one day (20.7.62)	0.75 ins.
No. of hours of sunshine	1420

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

By far the greater proportion of the Urban District is sewered. The village of Bulphan on the northern boundary and the village of North Stifford, together with parts of Linford, Fobbing and Orsett are the principal areas not yet sewered.

The Main Disposal Works are situated at Marsh Farm, West Tilbury, but smaller plants are at Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope and Linford.

There have been no significant alterations or extensions to the sewerage systems or sewage disposal works during the year. Tenders have, however, been received for the North Stifford Sewerage Scheme and the scheme for the sewerage of Linford has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

It is hoped that the sewerage of North Stifford will be completed before the end of 1963.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The principal river in the area is the Thames, on the north bank of which the Thurrock Urban District stands. In addition, the Mardyke rises above Bulphan and Orsett Fens and discharges into the Thames at Aveley. There are in addition, various small tidal streams which also discharge into the Thames.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were 848 cesspools and 398 pail closets in the area at the close of the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by the Public Cleansing Superintendent and no important change in the general arrangements took place during the year.

It is the Council's policy to empty household dustbins and pail closets weekly and cesspools fortnightly.

Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on a site at Baker Street, Orsett.

During the year the Council undertook that, from 1st January, 1963, they themselves would provide and maintain such dustbins as may be necessary in respect of the whole of the area, the scheme to be financed as an ordinary rate-borne service. This is of great assistance to the department and will ensure not only that all premises will have proper dustbins but that such bins will conform to B.S.I. Standards.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are, within the area, nine swimming baths as follows: —

Public	...	...	...	...	...	1
Private	...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	6

The Public Swimming Bath is situated on the river front at Grays and was acquired by the Council some years ago from the London County Council.

The bath is approximately 60 ft. x 28 ft. and slopes from 2 ft. 6 ins. to 7 ft. 6 ins. Its capacity is 65,625 gallons. There are no means of filtration, but the water is chlorinated by chlorine gas injection and heated by means of a small Economic Boiler which admits steam to the water at various points. It is emptied twice weekly and refilled with mains water.

The bath is open from May-September and daily tests are made by the attendant in addition to routine samples submitted for bacteriological examination by the Health Department.

The construction of the new swimming bath at Blackshots Playing Field is now well in hand and will, it is hoped, be completed before the end of 1963.

During the year two additional swimming baths were opened at schools in the area. These baths are of the open-air type and are provided with a continuous circulatory filtration and chlorination unit. This means that, with the exception of the Public Swimming Bath, all the baths in the district are run on this principle.

It is becoming customary to instal small outdoor swimming baths in schools for tuition purposes and indeed three such baths already exist. No legislation exists to control such installations the cost of which is met largely by voluntary subscription. Great care will need to be exercised by the school authorities if a satisfactory water is to be maintained. I am pleased to say that this department has been consulted and, in addition to regular sampling, is always ready to advise in times of difficulty.

The total number of samples taken during the year was 39 of which 38 were satisfactory.

The single unsatisfactory sample was from the Exmouth Public Bath and was due to (a) failure to chlorinate at the right time and (b) the bath water being at too high a temperature. In view of the fact that the end of season had been reached it was not possible to take "follow-up" samples.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one common lodging house in the area—situated at the junction of High Street and West Street, Grays—and this has been in existence for very many years. It provides accommodation for 21 persons.

The premises are very old, poorly constructed and certainly not lavishly equipped. Some of the inhabitants frequenting the lodging house do not place a high value on cleanliness and regular visits are necessary to ensure compliance with the regulations. However, the premises presumably meet a need and should be allowed to continue for the time being although its future may well be affected by the proposed Grays Redevelopment Scheme.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The area contains many large industrial plants situated along the river front and the department pays regular attention to factory

chimneys with a view to ensuring that smoke is not emitted in such quantities as to infringe the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958.

There is an increasing tendency for coal-fired units to be converted to oil and of the 56 new furnaces notified over the past three years, 52 have been oil fired and one gas fired.

This policy inevitably leads to a reduction of smoke and grit but it must be remembered that there is not the same decrease in invisible sulphur dioxide.

Although few complaints have been received, the department has been particularly concerned with: —

- (1) The periodic emission of smoke from an installation engaged in the recovery of non-ferrous metals from insulated cable.
- (2) The emission of ash from a wood-burning installation.
- (3) Smuts from the chimney of an oil-fired installation.

In the first instance the problem has proved intractable over the past six years and is due to the necessity of applying simultaneously two apparently incompatible requirements, i.e. the production of high temperature on the one hand to prevent the formation of smoke whilst, on the other hand, the temperature must not be too high to prevent the lead and copper from being “burnt” and becoming useless.

Little or no national research seems to have been carried out on this problem and it has been necessary to devise a furnace by trial and error to deal with the situation. Primary and secondary chambers have been constructed—the secondary chamber being heated by oil burners and provided with forced draught in order to “burn the smoke”. Two such furnaces have been constructed whilst a third is contemplated. These installations are subject to constant attention in order to increase efficiency and although a complete remedy has not yet been achieved, there has been a reduction in the amount of smoke emitted.

In the second instance, the firm concerned have now fitted an arrester at the base of the chimney and it is hoped that this will greatly reduce, if not solve, the problem.

In the case of the oil-fired installation, the question was one of preventing the temperature of the flue gases from falling below their dew point and giving rise to condensation with resultant smut formation. The firm concerned have now erected a new metal chimney stack of smaller diameter with the hope of increasing flue gas velocity with consequent increased exit temperature.

ALKALI, ETC. WORKS.

The following works are now under the control of the Alkali Works Inspector and complete co-operation exists between him and this department: —

Cement Production	...	...	...	...	4
Synthetic Detergent Plant (bisulphite section)					1
Oil Refining, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
Electricity Production	...	...	...	...	2
Nitric Acid Production	...	...	...	...	2

The two nitric acid plants utilise ammonia which is synthesised at one of the plants for conversion into nitric acid and from thence into ammonium nitrate and nitro-chalk for use as fertilisers. Both plants are working and during the year no complaints have been received. During normal working there is no reason to believe the discharge will exceed the limit laid down by the Alkali Inspectorate.

Complaints regarding malodorous emissions from the Oil Refineries continue to decrease, not only in Thurrock but in the areas to the east of Thurrock.

It seems to me that this is a situation which reflects credit on the firms concerned for, at these large installations, it is a formidable task to keep pollution and smell to a minimum. There is an occasional complaint against the refineries and it is the task—indeed the duty—of the firms concerned to ensure that such occasions are as few as may be and the duration as short as possible.

One complaint of a serious nature was recorded during August and this involved the discharge of hydrogen sulphide from one of the refineries to the discomfiture of the residents of Stanford-le-Hope. Apparently the Sulphur Recovery Unit suffered a breakdown which necessitated the burning of hydrogen sulphide at one of the flare stacks. Incomplete combustion took place with the emission of this most offensive gas.

Once more I must record that the principal single source of atmospheric pollution in Thurrock takes the form of dust from the cement works. Public complaint is very little but this may well be due to the fact that over the years members of the public have grown weary of complaining on a matter which seems incapable of a solution.

During June an unusual but well founded complaint was made by the staff of a school at West Thurrock who alleged that an evil smelling gas was discharged from a nearby cement works and that certain pupils had become ill. This gas was hydrogen sulphide and can only be attributed to the failure of the kiln

operators to control combustion conditions to the fine degree necessary to achieve efficient combustion. Several of the cement kilns have now changed from pulverised fuel to oil firing and it is possible that lack of operating experience was responsible for this emission. Hydrogen sulphide should not be emitted from a cement kiln at any time.

The matter was taken up with the Alkali, etc. Works Inspector who conducted an investigation and since then no further complaints have been made on this issue.

Of the 15 kilns in Thurrock, 13 are fitted with electrostatic precipitators—the remaining 2 are of small output, are not in regular use, and their contribution to the dust problem is insignificant. A new kiln came into operation during the year.

On the Kent side of the river a similar number of kilns exists and the prevailing wind being south west, a good deal of dust from that region is added to that of Thurrock.

The situation shows some slight improvement in that the general average amount of dust recorded in the Council's Deposit Gauges is the lowest for the past six years. However, this should not provide grounds for complacency in view of the fact that the average amount of dust from all sources deposited during the year in the vicinity of the gauges was 280 tons per square mile.

I have previously stressed the need for viewing the problem of cement dust against the background of the amount of cement produced, i.e. $4\frac{1}{2}$ million tons per annum in an area of eight square miles and it is necessary, not only that efficient precipitators be provided but that they be properly maintained and renewed if circumstances warrant it. Such precipitators should be related to the through-put of the kiln and should be provided with apparatus which records their continuity of operation. It is understood that this last matter is under consideration.

During the early part of 1963 the Council hope to arrange a Conference between the representatives of the cement industries, the Alkali Works Inspectorate and themselves with a view to discussing the whole problem. It is unlikely that the dust problem will be solved in the immediate future but every effort should be made to reduce to a minimum something which, after all, is an intolerable nuisance.

INSTALLATION OF FURNACES AND CHIMNEYS.

(1) No. of notifications of construction of new furnaces	12
(a) Coal fired	1
(b) Oil fired	11
(c) Gas fired	Nil

(2) No. of applications for Prior Approval ...	...	8
No. granted ...	...	6

In all cases agreement was subsequently reached on the question of chimney heights. Difficulty sometimes arises regarding schools, hospitals and buildings belonging to statutory undertakers owing to the fact that, in these cases, by-law approval is not required and hence no machinery exists for the rejection of plans even if proposed chimney heights are considered to be inadequate. It must be said that, in many cases the local authority is consulted before the installation of a boiler plant but it would be better if the exemption were removed.

In two instances applications for Prior Approval were rejected. The first instance related to a vertical boiler which was to be coal fired (subsequently smokeless fuel was substituted) whilst the second related to an additional furnace for the production of copper from cable burning.

BY-LAWS.

By-laws exist under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, which require new buildings to be provided with only such appliances for heating and cooking as are suitably designed for burning authorised smokeless fuels. Their enforcement is carried out by the Building Inspectors.

SMOKE CONTROL.

It is pleasing to report that two Smoke Control Orders were confirmed during the year.

The first related to the Kenningtons Estate at Aveley, the Order for which was made by the Council in 1961. Subsequently, however, an appeal was lodged which gave rise to a Public Enquiry in March. The appeal was dismissed and the Order confirmed by the Minister who directed that it should come into operation on November 1st, 1962.

Following this, a further Smoke Control Order was made covering most of the Belhus Estate at South Ockendon and extending to the northern boundary of the Urban District. This Order met with no opposition and was confirmed by the Minister who directed that it should come into operation on July 1st, 1963.

Details of the two Orders are as follows:

Area 2236 acres, comprising:— 5051 dwellinghouses, 75 shops, 12 schools, 16 industrial premises, 16 miscellaneous premises.

Fifteen dwellinghouses will require works of adaptation or conversion—the remaining houses are fitted with approved appliances with integral gas ignition. All commercial, industrial and school premises burn oil or smokeless fuel with one exception—an incinerator used by a large engineering firm. It will not in my opinion be possible to operate this plant without the emission of smoke.

The severe winter of 1962/3 produced a serious fuel problem and supplies of premium smokeless fuels were almost unobtainable. Gloco, however, was not in short supply (although coal merchants were in difficulties with the distribution of all types of fuel) but there appears to be a marked reluctance on the part of many members of the public and indeed coal merchants toward this fuel. Special care is necessary in order to burn the fuel successfully and guidance has been given to householders in the two areas by means of mobile exhibition and Press notices. In addition every house has received a leaflet setting out in detail the correct method of burning Gloco.

It is to be hoped that the extraordinary conditions prevailing during this winter will not be allowed to slow down the rate of progress in creating Smoke Control Areas for, after all, the public are as much entitled to clean air as to clean water and pure food.

It is not an answer to point to cement dust. The fact that this intractable problem is on our hands is not a reason for adding smoke to atmospheric pollutants especially when it is remembered that smoke from the domestic fire can be entirely eliminated whilst that from industry can be greatly reduced.

MEASURING INSTRUMENTS.

Three deposit gauges and one peroxide cylinder are maintained by the Council who co-operate closely with the Thameside Joint Committee and to whom the monthly results are forwarded.

The readings from the gauges for the year 1962 are as follows: —

Month 1962	Tons per square mile		Mg. per 100 sq. Cm.	
	Drums Site	Kennington's School Site	Ward Avenue Site	Sulphur Trioxide
January	47.54	10.06	41.22	2.71
February	27.70	7.68	20.51	—
March	27.74	15.44	21.49	2.02
April	27.41	15.12	26.41	1.49

Month	Tons per square mile			Mg. per 100 sq. Cm.	
	Drums Site	Kennington's School Site	Ward Avenue Site	Sulphur Trioxide	
May	28.49	15.37	34.17	—	
June	18.31	8.81	20.76	0.86	
July	28.13	16.25	29.31	0.76	
August	29.04	12.27	30.78	1.12	
September	27.16	23.12	30.78	1.20	
October	31.62	11.47	25.76	1.46	
November	19.21	18.62	18.14	1.52	
December	28.50	22.54	17.69	2.70	

The results include not only cement dust, but dust, grit and gritty particles from all sources.

During the early part of the year the Council installed two Combined Smoke/Volumetric instruments for the daily recording of smoke and sulphur dioxide. The apparatuses are installed at the Council Offices and the Health Centre at Belhus.

The readings from these instruments are as follows:—

Month	GRAYS			BELHUS		
	Micrograms/cu.M./Air			Micrograms/cu.M./Air		
	Smoke	S.O ₂	Ratio S/S.O ₂	Smoke	S O ₂	Ratio S/S.O ₂
April	67	95	0.70	56	74	0.75
May	65	80	0.81	39	56	0.69
June	35	58	0.60	18	92	0.19
July	51	67	0.76	22	55	0.40
August	50	91	0.55	13	84	0.15
September	60	101	0.59	26	98	0.26
October	96	141	0.68	56	141	0.39
November	170	154	1.10	80	130	0.61
December	214	267	0.80	117	352	0.30

During December several days of thick fog were recorded and it is interesting to note the sharp rise in the amount of smoke and sulphur dioxide. On one day alone, the readings were fourteen

times the normal and startlingly demonstrate the effect of a combination of coal fired appliances with conditions of temperature inversion.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

In addition to the treatment of verminous premises (detailed elsewhere in this report) the Council assists occupiers of premises in the eradication of other pests, e.g. earwigs, ants and wasps, either by the sale of suitable insecticides or by disinfestation, for which a charge is made, the latter procedure being used in the case of wasps nests concerning which the number of complaints fell considerably during the year. The department would prefer not to carry out work of this nature as no public health problem is involved but it is appreciated that wasps nests are sometimes difficult to destroy and the use of special apparatus is often necessary. During the year under review, nine nests were dealt with either by the use of cyanide or liquid insecticide.

When certain infectious diseases occur (e.g. Smallpox, Poliomyelitis, Meningococcal Infection) rooms are fumigated with formaldehyde and the bedding is removed for steam sterilisation to the Thurrock Hospital.

The number of rooms so fumigated was 10 and in 3 cases bedding was removed. In two further instances bedding and clothing was removed following cases of scabies.

During the year it became necessary to disinfest a house by reason of a serious infestation of lice and the occupant was removed to a public cleansing station.

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Rodent Officer deals with all complaints regarding rodent infestations. Private dwellinghouses are treated without cost but trade premises are charged on a basis of total cost plus Establishment Charges. Estimates are not given unless requested, owing to the difficulty of determining how many visits are likely to be made before the premises are cleared.

The Rodent Officer carries out regular treatments at sewage works, refuse tips and to the Council's sewers.

Warfarin is used in connection with all premises and sodium fluoroacetate for the treatment of sewers.

The following table shows the work of the Rodent Staff during the year: —

	Local Authority Premises	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other Premises	TOTAL
1. Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification ...	24	354	96	474
(b) Survey under the Act ...	5	63	—	68
(c) Otherwise ...	—	—	—	—
2. Total inspections carried out — including reinspections ...	100	1455	350	1905
3. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 1) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats } Major ...	2	7	—	9
} Minor ...	24	350	52	426
(b) Mice } Major ...	—	—	1	1
} Minor ...	3	60	39	102
4. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 3) treated by the Local Authority ...	29	417	92	538
5. Total treatments carried out incl. retreatments ...	38	417	92	547

OLD METAL DEALERS.

By the Old Metal Dealers (No. 3) Order, 1952, the Secretary of State, Home Office, declared Section 85 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 to be in force in the Urban District.

At the end of the year 33 persons had been registered as Dealers in Old Metal.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The number of licences to keep Pet Shops issued during the year was 5.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the area are registered under the above mentioned Act.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

The authority for the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950—the Essex County Council—have delegated to the Council their functions regarding the licensing of boiling plants for animal feeding stuffs.

The importance of adequate boiling of waste food before feeding to animals or fowls cannot be over-emphasised for it is considered that failure to do this is responsible for some of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, swine fever and fowl pest.

The number of plants licensed during the year was 31.

NOISE ABATEMENT.

By means of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, local authorities have power to institute legal proceedings in respect of any “noise or vibration which is a nuisance”. The procedure is by way of a Nuisance Order in accordance with Part 3 of the Public Health Act, 1936. A similar power is given to any three occupiers of land within hearing of the noise.

The public at large seem to be very reluctant to take advantage of this provision and invariably make their complaints to the local authority with a request that they take some action. Such action is frequently not possible owing to the fact that the alleged noise is intermittent and occurs at irregular times with the result that the officers of the local authority are unable to satisfy themselves that the complaint is valid or reasonable.

The “best practicable means” defence is also available and this can give rise to difficulties. It sometimes happens that the only remedy is for the person concerned to cease carrying on his business and I wonder whether this was the intention of the Act.

One provision is, however, clear. Loudspeakers, chimes, etc., must not be operated from ice-cream vehicles save between 12 noon and 7 p.m. This provision is usually enforced by the police who, by reason of patrolling officers, are more likely to observe breaches of this regulation.

So far as new industrial premises are concerned, planning control could and should do much to mitigate or prevent noise nuisance in the planning stage.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

						VISITS
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	518
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	108

Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	554
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	220
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	1421
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	239
Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	...	2505
Factories (Mechanical)	...	...	...	...	...	402
Factories (Non-mechanical)	...	...	...	...	...	27
Fairs	...	...	...	...	...	11
Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	305
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	...	707
Food Shops Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	1518
Food Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	102
Heating (Fireguards)	...	...	...	...	...	11
Hackney Carriages	...	...	...	...	...	64
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	136
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1259
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	304
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	878
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	518
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	77
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	58
Pet Animals	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sampling—Food	...	...	...	...	...	624
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	420
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	740
Swimming Bath Water	...	...	...	...	...	47
Mains Water	...	...	...	...	...	13
Well	...	...	...	...	...	28
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	20
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	729
Slaughterhouses (other than meat inspection)	...	...	...	...	...	25
Stables and Pigsties	...	...	...	...	...	36
Standard Grants	...	...	...	...	...	186
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	48
Waste Foods Order	...	...	...	...	...	109
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	97
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	23

SECTION "E"

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES.

No. of new dwellings erected during the year: —

By local authority	...	...	...	...	234
By other local authorities	...	...	...	...	Nil
By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	676

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

1. (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	659
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	2505
2. (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1) inspected under Housing Consolidated Regulations	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose	Nil
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for human habitation, and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit (excluding Clearance Areas)	15
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	291

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and their officers	...	...	...	136
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) <i>Housing Act, 1957—Section 9</i>	...	...	...	Nil
--	-----	-----	-----	-----

(B) *Public Health Act, 1936.*

(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring matters to be remedied	...	...	...	...	62
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (ii) Number of dwellinghouses in which matters were remedied after service of formal notices (including those outstanding from 1962): — | |
| (a) By owners | 71 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners ... | Nil |

(C) *Sections 16 and 23, Housing Act, 1957.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| (i) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 5 |
| (ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 8 |
| (iii) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted | 4 |
| (iv) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings to render fit were accepted | 1 |

(D) *Section 17, Housing Act, 1957.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| (i) No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 5 |
| (ii) Number of houses closed | 2 |

CLEARANCE AREAS.

Housing Act, 1957—Section 42.

During the year 2 areas involving 14 houses were submitted for confirmation. The Clearance Orders were confirmed by the Minister in both cases.

The properties in one clearance area at Fobbing involving 3 houses, were demolished and the site cleared, the occupants having been rehoused.

This year is the second of the five-year programme which will end on 31st December, 1965, and the Council have informed the Minister that they propose to deal with 120 unfit houses during this period.

During these two years 77 houses have been dealt with (65%) so that the Council are well ahead with their programme. There is, however, likely to be some slowing down during 1963 for 31 families remain to be rehoused and, in my view, slum clearance must necessarily keep pace with the Council's capacity to rehouse. In assessing the number of Council houses available for Slum clearance regard must be had to the normal waiting list, the alleviation of overcrowding and the needs of redevelopment. The Broadway Redevelopment Scheme in Tilbury has reached the stage in

which the Council are about to serve "Notice of Entry" and the ultimate demolition of this unsatisfactory property is tantamount to slum clearance.

DISCRETIONARY AND STANDARD GRANTS.

The work during the year under this heading is summarised as follows:—

No. of applications received:—

(a) For Discretionary Grants ...	...	...	...	19
(b) For Standard Grants ...	...	...	...	64

No. of applications granted:—

(a) For Discretionary Grants ...	...	...	...	18
(b) For Standard Grants ...	...	...	...	67

It is a matter of regret that the figures relating to Standard Grants decline each year and it is even more disappointing to find that most of the applicants are owner-occupiers—some 76.5%. It is unfortunate that owners of rented property do not make greater use of these grants which are designed to provide houses with amenities now regarded as essential.

RENT ACT, 1957.

This Act has been in operation some $4\frac{1}{2}$ years and permits, with few exceptions, rents to be increased automatically, subject to the tenant's right to object by the service of a notice on the landlord listing those defects of repair which he considers should be remedied. It will be seen that virtually no use has been made of this Act during the year under review, and it now seems to serve very little purpose.

Details of its administration are as follows:—

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
No. of applications received ...	68	56	15	—	—	—
No. of applications rejected ...	—	—	1	—	—	—
No. of Undertakings accepted ...	40	48	5	2	—	—
No. of Certificates of Disrepair issued ...	10	26	7	—	—	—
No. of Unexpired Forms "J" ...	9	—	—	—	—	—
No. of Applications for Cancellations of Certificate ...	8	3	1	—	2	2
No. of Cancellations issued ...	6	3	1	—	2	2
No. of Refusals to Cancel Certificates ...	2	—	—	—	—	—

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

11 premises were found to be infested with vermin as follows: —

Bugs	-	7 premises (involving 14 rooms)
Cockroaches	-	3 premises (involving 4 rooms)
Lice	-	1 premises (involving 3 rooms)

OVERCROWDING.

During the year 58 visits were made in connection with complaints of overcrowding. Where overcrowding was established the matter was referred to the Housing Department and if the family concerned are applicants for a Council house an allowance is made in the "Points" Scheme.

I do not think that the position regarding overcrowding is entirely satisfactory. Section 113 of the Housing Act, 1957, requires a local authority, in the selection of their tenants, to give reasonable preference to persons who are, *inter alia*, occupying overcrowded houses. No reasonable person would, of course, expect a local authority to re-house all overcrowded families automatically—this would undoubtedly lead to abuse. It seems to me, however, that where overcrowding is due to natural increase in the size of the family, priority ought to be given and other cases considered on their merits.

It seems to me that to live in overcrowded conditions can be more soul destroying than living in an insanitary house for, in the latter case, facilities do not have to be shared and members of the family enjoy some degree of privacy.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

At the end of 1961, the Housing Act, 1961, came into operation and introduced entirely new legislation with respect to houses in multiple occupation. Section 15 enables the local authority to require the provision of additional amenities where necessary whilst Section 19 gives power to make a "Direction" which has the effect of limiting the number of occupants. Unfortunately this power cannot be used to remedy existing overcrowding and recourse must be had to Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1957.

The standard required is left to the discretion of the local authority (subject to an appeal to the County Court) and the Council have laid down standards under Sections 15 and 19 to which the department work. It is unfortunate that Section 15 carries no

penalty clause and that the local authority must carry out work in default. The difficulty, and in some cases the impossibility, of recovering the cost is something to be faced and one can well imagine the reluctance of any Council to acquire property of this nature.

The problem of houses in multiple occupation is not serious in Thurrock at the moment, although there are indications that it will become more acute, especially where Indians are concerned. These immigrants have a habit of buying houses and letting rooms off to individuals of their own race who live a communal life. Serious overcrowding can thereby occur and this is accompanied by lack of facilities for washing, cooking and heating in terrace houses originally built for one family.

The matter is, however, receiving the active attention of the department but the language problem makes the task no easier.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The position regarding moveable dwellings is still difficult despite the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, the immense amount of time devoted to this problem is shown by the fact that, during 1962, no less than 554 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors.

The uncontrolled site adjoining the West Thurrock Power Station will cease to exist at the beginning of 1963 when the caravans will remove to a plot of land to the east. This site will, in my opinion, be most unsuitable in view of the nature of the soil—excavated material from the Power Station—and drainage problems will inevitably arise. Since this site will also adjoin the engineering work, it too will be uncontrolled, and it is possible that the Council will make application to the Minister for exemption to be withdrawn.

I cannot help but think that Clause 9 of the First Schedule to the Act did not envisage the creation of large caravan sites for a period of years and in cases of this nature exemption could properly be withdrawn.

At any moment one can expect to see a similar site develop in Tilbury in connection with the construction of the Tilbury "B" Power Station now in progress, although the Council have agreed to lay out a caravan park on land in Fort Road for the purpose of providing accommodation for contractors' staff.

It will, however, be some months before this scheme materialises and in the meanwhile I view with apprehension the number of caravans which may park themselves in the vicinity.

It seems to me that a caravan problem of this magnitude is not one which a local authority should be called upon to solve and that it is not too much to expect either the engineering contractors or the Central Electricity Generating Board to satisfy themselves that adequate facilities exist for the parking of caravans before the construction of a Power Station commences.

The question of itinerant caravans which park on disused land and highway verges is becoming more difficult to deal with each year. Eventually they are persuaded to move — although in some cases force is necessary to secure removal—and with the co-operation of land owners the policy of barricading well-known sites has continued. This fraternity are, however, adept at finding new places and the entire operation becomes a battle of wits.

The position in Thurrock at the end of the year is as follows:—

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) No. of cases during the year in which a site licence was granted | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| (2) Total number of licensed sites | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |

Of the seven licensed sites, six are in respect of one caravan only. The remaining site consists of twenty caravans at Corringham concerning which the planning authority has issued a five-year “run down” approval but the owner has made a further application for permanent approval.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year 1,119 complaints were received from residents within the Urban District. Every effort is made to deal with such complaints on the day of receipt.

DETAILS OF WORK EXECUTED.

Dampness remedied	...	...	...	58
Plaster repaired	...	...	...	67
Floors repaired	...	...	...	20
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	42
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	12
Doors, locks, etc., repaired or renewed	...	...	...	22
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	14
Drains unstopped or repaired	...	...	...	61
Gullies repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4
Inspection chambers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4
New drains provided	...	...	...	2
Soil or ventilation pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6

Cesspools provided or renewed	...	...	6
New sinks, etc., provided	...	...	6
W.C.s or pail closets repaired	...	...	35
New pedestals provided	...	...	6
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	17
Water supplies and fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	6
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	73
Gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	34
Walls repaired or renewed	...	...	23
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	8
Coppers provided	...	...	1
Dustbins provided	...	...	46
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	23
Accumulations removed	...	...	10

SECTION "F"

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspec- tions (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	27	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	313	402	22	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	325	429	22	—

2 — Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were		Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	11	7	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	6	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	1	—	—	—
Total	22	14	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS.

There are no employers of outworkers as defined in Sections 110 and 111 of the Act, in this area.

A register of outworkers resident in the district is kept, the number so registered being 67.

SECTION "G"

SHOPS, ETC., INSPECTION

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Shops Acts, 1950.

Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938.

WEEKLY HALF HOLIDAY ORDERS.

(1) Grays Thurrock — Wednesday.

Art Needlework Dealers, Boot Dealers, Corn Dealers, Drapers, Dealers in Fancy Goods, Furnishers, Outfitters, Grocers, Ironmongers, Jewellers, Nurserymen, Oil and Colour Merchants, Ships Candler, Sewing Machine Dealers, Stationers, Wardrobe Dealers, Harness Makers, Butchers, Chemists and Hairdressers.

Exemptions:— Photographers, Dealers in photographic goods.

(2) South Ockendon — Wednesday.

All trades not exempted by Act, Stationers, Corn and Coal Dealers.

(3) South Ockendon — Thursday.

Stationers.

Exemptions:— Corn and Coal Merchants.

(4) Stanford-le-Hope — Wednesday.

All trades except those exempted by the Act, together with Furniture Dealers, Hairdressers, Outfitters and Watchmakers.

(5) Purfleet and Langdon Hills.

All shops exempt from closing.

(6) Tilbury — Wednesday.

Hairdressers.

(7) Fobbing.

Coal and Coke Merchants exempted.

CLOSING ORDERS.

(1) Grays Thurrock — Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 7 p.m.,
Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 9 p.m.

Art Needlework Dealers, Bakers, Boot and Shoe Merchants, Butchers, Chemists, China and Glass Merchants, Corn Merchants, Dairymen, Drapers, Furnishers, Gents' Outfitters, Ironmongers and Hardware Merchants, Jewellers, Oil and Colour Merchants, Photographers, Sewing Machine Agents and Stationers.

(2) North and South Stifford, West and Little Thurrock.

Tobacconists — Weekdays 9.30 p.m., Saturday 10 p.m.

Sunday Trading Exemptions.

Parts of Grays (Old High Street from Market Place to Grays Beach).	Photographic requisites. Sale of articles for bathing or fishing, toys, souvenirs, fancy goods, books, stationery, photographs, reproductions & postcards.
--	--

Some 636 visits were carried out resulting in the service of 46 written notices, made up as follows:—

REQUIREMENTS	No. OF INSTANCES
Redecoration of W.C.s.	1
Repair of walls/ceilings to W.C.s.	1
Cleansing of W.C. pan	1
Removal of refuse	1
Provision and exhibition of Forms	42

Complaints and enquiries have been very few during the year. Such matters usually relate to Hours of Closing and Sunday Trading. A pamphlet has been prepared which is available to any shopkeeper who is in need of advice on these matters.

The principal infringements of the Shops Act relate to the provision of the requisite forms and records. The department keeps a stock of forms and they are available to shopkeepers on request.

SECTION "H"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

There are within the area 14 registered dairies and licences for the sale of designated milk have also been issued in respect of 119 shop premises and three milk vending machines.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

Number of licences in force: —

(a)	Dealer's (Prepacked) for Tuberculin Tested Milk	49
(b)	„ „ „ Pasteurised Milk ...	83
(c)	„ „ „ Sterilised Milk ...	35
(d)	Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) ...	2
(e)	Dealer's (Tuberculin Tested) ...	2

Pasteurising Plants.

There is now only one pasteurising plant in the area—a H.T.S.T. type with a capacity of 1,500 G.P.H. The small "Holder" type plant has now closed down, the dairyman concerned having decided to retail milk in prepacked cartons.

Samples are regularly taken from the existing plant and all have proved satisfactory.

MILK SAMPLES.

(a) *Bacteriological.*

The following tables show the number of samples taken and the results obtained: —

GRADE	No. Taken	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test		Turbidity Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	227	227	—	215	12	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Past.)	280	280	—	268	12	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	92	—	—	91	1	—	—
Sterilised	27	—	—	—	—	27	—

It is to be noted that, of the 626 samples of designated milk taken, 25 failed the methylene blue test. None of these was from bottling premises in this area.

Milk Samples which failed the appropriate tests during 1962.

Failure	Designation			Samples from	
	Past.	T.T. (Past.)	T.T.	Plants within the area	Plants outside the area
Methylene Blue Test	12	12	1	—	25
Phosphatase Test	—	—	—	—	—

Of the 25 unsatisfactory samples, 9 were from vending machines, 4 from pre-packed milk cartons and the remaining 12 from sealed bottles.

Vending machines seem to be increasing in popularity and unless they are used regularly there is a tendency for milk to be retained for too long a period. In addition some appear to be geared in such a manner that milk during the warmer summer weather is retained at too high a temperature. A combination of these two factors is liable to lead to methylene blue failures.

So far as bottles and cartons are concerned it is impossible to secure adequate local control in view of the fact that the milk is produced, processed, bottled and in some cases distributed from premises outside this area.

With the control of milk production out of the hands of local authorities and the tendency for the small dairyman to disappear (or to become a mere purveyor of bottled milk) the trade is now in the hands of large companies with the result that the strict control which was exercised locally is no longer possible.

(b) *Biological.*

There are 30 milk-producing farms in the area and every effort is made to sample the milk from each farm twice yearly. During the year 59 samples were taken for submission to the biological test with a view to determining the presence or otherwise of tubercle bacilli. In no case was a positive result obtained.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

On January 1st the new Construction Regulations came into operation and the number of slaughterhouses was thus reduced to two.

Both premises comply with the Regulations although during the year improvements have been made on the suggestion of the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

KNACKERS YARD.

The one Knacker's Yard in the area has now fallen into disuse, the occupier having failed to renew the licence.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2177	126	17	7305	2205
Number inspected					
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	18	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	296	57	1	1325	338
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	13.6	45.2	5.9	18.4	15.4
<i>Tuberculosis Only</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	41
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.1	—	—	—	1.9
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	1	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration	8	1	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercosis	0.4	0.8	—	—	—

It will be noted that the total number of animals slaughtered during the year was 11,830, an increase of 7.9% over 1961 and this is due to a larger number of sheep killed.

It is pleasing to record that every animal slaughtered has been inspected but this has only been made possible by Inspectors working seven days a week—involving more than 300 hours overtime.

Tuberculosis now plays a minor role in meat inspection and it is satisfactory to note that, during the year under review, the incidence of *Cysticercus Bovis* has been still further reduced.

MEAT CONDEMNED.

The weight of meat condemned in the slaughterhouses during the year amounts to 9,430 lbs.

SLAUGHTERMEN.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

A register of all licensed slaughtermen is kept in accordance with the above Act and the number so licensed is 14.

UNSOUND FOOD SURRENDERED.

NUMBER	COMMODITY	WEIGHT IN LBS.
597 tins	Meat	1560
1969 tins	Fruit	2152
489 tins	Vegetables	664
1 tin	Cherry Pie Filling	1
119 tins	Soup	87
125 tins	Fish	56
64 tins	Spaghetti and Macaroni	40
146 tins	Rice Pudding	143
4 tins	Coffee	1
33 tins	Cream	15
11 tins	Syrup	14
50 tins	Tomato Juice	12
130 tins	Evaporated Milk 164 $\frac{7}{8}$ pints equivalent	
5 tins	Fruit Juice	5
99 tins	Milk	65
41 tins	Pudding	29
1 tin	Honey	1

NUMBER	COMMODITY	WEIGHT IN LBS.
227 tins	Tomatoes	134
22 tins	Jam	40
2 jars	Peanut Butter	1
6 jars	Sauces and Pickles	3
27 jars	Preserves	24
	Fish Cakes	8
	Dried Fruit	25
	Bacon	69
	Beef	235
	Imported Lamb	138
	Salt	2
	Cornflour	4
	Tapioca	56
	Butter	14
	Rabbits (imported)	13
	Fish (wet)	28
4	Chickens	39
2	Pigeons	—
1	Duck	6
363 boxes	Cheese	73
2397 packets	Frozen Food	1041
40 packets	Dates	30
2 bottles	Fruit Juice	27½ fluid ozs.

All condemned food is collected by the department and disposed of on the Council's Refuse Tip.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLES.

398 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:

<i>Ministry of Health's Provisional Grade</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
Grade I 	370
Grade II 	17
Grade III 	6
Grade IV 	5

3 ice lolly samples were taken and all were satisfactory.

The standard of ice-cream sold within the area throughout the year is set out below:—

Producer	Total Samples therefrom	Ministry of Health's Provisional Grades				Quality
		I	II	III	IV	
A	117	117	—	—	—	Satisfactory
B	91	89	2	—	—	Satisfactory
C	82	82	—	—	—	Satisfactory
*D	42	39	3	—	—	Satisfactory
E	22	22	—	—	—	Satisfactory
F	16	9	2	3	2	Unsatisfactory
G	6	3	2	—	1	Unsatisfactory
H	16	6	6	2	2	Unsatisfactory
I	2	1	1	—	—	Satisfactory
J	2	2	—	—	—	Satisfactory
K	1	—	—	1	—	Unsatisfactory
L	1	—	1	—	—	Unsatisfactory
	—	—	—	—	—	
	398	370	17	6	5	
	—	—	—	—	—	

*Producer "D" is situated within the Urban District. The remaining producers manufacture outside the area but retail their supplies within.

The 42 samples from the Thurrock producer came within the following categories:—

Percentage of Grade I samples	...	92.86%
Percentage of Grade I and II samples	...	100%
Grade III samples	...	Nil
Grade IV samples	...	Nil

This is the lowest percentage of unsatisfactory samples for several years and it is a pleasure to record that all samples from the local producer were Grade 1 or Grade 2—indeed the vast majority were Grade 1.

The overall picture regarding the quality of ice-cream sold in the district shows a great improvement, the percentage of Grade 4 samples having reached the low figure of 1.2 and when this is judged against the background of the total number of samples taken, i.e. 398, I do not consider it to be unsatisfactory.

The few unsatisfactory samples consisted of loose ice-cream from vehicles—including the now popular soft ice-cream apparatus. It seems to me that, Public Health Inspectors, having sung the praises of pre-packed ice-cream for years are now to be faced with a setback in the shape of soft ice-cream machines and although, in theory, this process will give a satisfactory product provided the apparatus is stripped down and sterilised daily, it is doubtful whether many itinerant vendors will go to this trouble at the end of their day on the roads.

FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises in the area is as under:—

Butchers	25
Grocers and Provision Merchants	171
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	58
Fishmongers (including fish fryers)	34
Sugar Confectionery	82
Flour Confectionery	26
Bakehouses	11
Cafes and Restaurants	71
Works Canteens	64
School Canteens	56
Licensed Premises	77
Clubs	47
General Stores	15

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

The special attention devoted to enforcing the above Regulations was continued during 1962 and a total of 2,280 visits and revisits were made to food shops, cafes, school and factory canteens.

Details of requirements made under the Regulations are as follows: —

REQUIREMENTS	No. OF INSTANCES
Provision, repair or renewal of	
Sinks	4
Towel, soap and nailbrush	5
Floors and floor coverings	11
Wash-hand basins	5
Hot water	8
Cold water	1
Refuse bin	7
Impervious surface to food preparation bench ...	4
Door to separate shop from hairdressing salon	1
Draining board	1
Cleansing of food preparation premises ...	1
Walls and/or ceilings	10
Roofs	5
Removal of refuse	5
Food exposed to the risk of contamination ...	4
Accommodation for outdoor clothes	2
“Wash your Hands” Notices	6
Ventilation	2
First Aid Equipment	3
Sterilising Agent	1
Refrain from Spitting	1
Refrain from Smoking	1
Cleansing of equipment and/or redecoration walls, ceilings and floors	110
Sink waste pipe	3
Yard surfaces	2
Sanitary accommodation	12
Drainage system	6
Dampness remedied	1

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—Section 16.

The records show that there were 367 premises registered for the manufacture or preservation of food, or sale of ice-cream, at the year's end.

These figures include 25 premises registered under the Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations, 1957, for the preparation of potted shrimps.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No legal proceedings have been instituted during the year in respect of offences under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, or the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

A number of complaints were received regarding the presence of foreign bodies in food. In some cases, no further action was justified, e.g. a white loaf of bread contained wholemeal, but in most cases the matter was reported to the Public Health Committee who directed that a warning letter be sent to the firm responsible.

A decision to prosecute in such cases is not lightheartedly taken, neither should it be. Considerations that carry the most weight (a) the injurious or repulsive character of the body (b) the degree of negligence or other blameworthiness in the manufacturer and (c) the cogency of the evidence linking the body with the accused person. A slight or moderate assessment under the first two considerations will normally qualify the offender for a warning and any serious weakness under (c) would almost certainly be an absolute bar to a prosecution. In addition the record of the firm in question will be taken into consideration.

Complaints regarding dirty milk bottles were almost non-existent during the year. Whether this is due to a greater degree of inspection at the dairies, or whether certain members of the public are beginning to realise the purpose for which a milk bottle should be used is open to question.

If and when non-returnable cartons become the rule rather than the exception the matter will be of academic interest.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING.

During the year samples were taken at the recommended rate of 3 per 1,000 population per annum and I am indebted to the Public Analyst (T. McLachlan, Esq., A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C., M.I.Biol.) for the following report on the analyses of samples and other relevant matters regarding the legislation and standards relating to food and drugs.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST

During the year 1962, 335 samples of food and drugs were examined. Of these 74 were taken formally and 261 informally.

The number of samples adulterated or incorrect in some way was 14. The incidence of adulteration may be classified as follows:—

	<i>Number of samples examined</i>	<i>Number of samples adulterated, etc.</i>
Milk	49	—
Other Foods ...	245	14
Drugs	41	—

Complaints were received from members of the public regarding a number of products.

A sliced white loaf contained pieces of the dough of brown bread which had been folded into the white dough during manufacture. Another loaf contained streaks of mineral oil and general dirt, probably due to gear oil falling from shafting into the bread before it was moulded. These contaminants were obviously due to carelessness in the bakeries concerned.

A portion of a doughnut purchased in a local shop was submitted for examination because the purchaser alleged that it contained what appeared to be insects legs. Four legs and part of the back of an insect, probably a flour beetle, were present and from the fact that these were embedded in the doughnut, they had probably been cooked in it.

A mouldy apple pie was submitted with the statement that it had been made up and kept in a refrigerator for three days before being baked, and sold the following day. Your analyst was of the opinion that the pie was mouldy before it was baked and had probably been made longer than three days before baking. It would appear to have been stored in an incubator rather than a refrigerator.

Complaints had been received from allotment holders that lettuce plants had been killed and others covered with a deposit which foamed when the plants were washed. Examination showed that a slight deposit of detergents was on the lettuce submitted for examination but this was so minute that it would have been

unlikely to do any harm when consumed, since lettuces are normally placed in water and washed before being eaten. Without examining a large quantity of these lettuces, it would have been impossible to extract sufficient detergent to identify it.

Some bacon possessed an unpleasant odour. The interior contained a total of 280,000 bacteria per gram mostly streptococci, showing that the bacon had been improperly cured.

Part of the contents of a can of casserole steak, together with an unopened can, were submitted because the colour of the steak was alleged to be unusual. The unopened can contained viable staphylococci and streptococci and its appearance was most unappetizing. With staphylococci and streptococci present in the unopened can, it was impossible to state that the can of which complaint was made could not have caused food poisoning. It contained, moreover, only 68 per cent of total meat, whereas casserole steak must contain not less than 95 per cent of meat.

A sample of luncheon meat loaf contained only 57 per cent total meat, whereas it should contain 65 per cent of meat, and a luncheon meat contained only 65 per cent of total meat instead of 80 per cent. This product should have been sold as a luncheon sausage. Some brawn contained only 65 per cent total meat, whereas a good brawn should contain not less than 80 per cent, preferably more. Two other samples of brawn contained respectively 89 per cent and 85 per cent of meat.

The composition of some beef sausage meat was satisfactory, but a claim was made that it contained no preservative, whereas, in fact, 223 parts per million of sulphur dioxide were present. The manufacturers may have used a spice mixture containing preservative and not have anticipated that this preservative would be carried into the sausage meat.

Some pastilles were submitted because they contained pieces of black material thought to be mouse droppings. The manufacturers had stated this was merely "tailings" from black pastilles, and examination proved this correct. The contamination was no doubt due to the fact that the plant had not been properly cleaned between every batch of confectionery, and the manufacturers stated it was because of these tailings that they had been rejected during inspection, and the sweets may have been sold at a cheap price.

The filling of a cream horn consisted of imitation cream. Cake and pastries containing products which look like cream or

resemble cream, but which are not cream, must be labelled "imitation cream".

The ingredients of some liquid ice lollies were incorrectly declared. Alginate must be declared as sodium alginate, and saccharin. The manufacturers agreed to amend the label accordingly.

A marzipan appeared to comply with the declaration of composition, but the exterior surface was mouldy. The moisture content was approximately 10 per cent, but the marzipan had probably been stored at an uneven temperature with the result that moisture had evaporated from the marzipan and condensed on the wrapper, thus creating conditions of mould growth.

A mint jelly contained only 1.5 per cent of mint, and should, therefore, have been described as "Mint Flavoured Jelly". According to the declaration mint was the sixth ingredient in order of quantity.

FOOD LEGISLATION.

During the year the most important item of food legislation was the introduction of the Preservatives in Food Regulations, 1962, together with its subsidiary The Milk and Dairies (Preservatives) Regulations. The Preservatives Regulations follow the lines foreshadowed in the Report of which a précis was given last year so that there is little object in repeating the information. The number of preservatives permitted in foods has been increased to twelve, but in no case are more than three defined preservatives permitted to be used for any specified food. A recommendation by the Food Standards Committee that nisin should be permitted as a preservative for cheese has not been adopted in spite of a common belief that it may now be used. The chief item of interest, which had not been foreseen, was that no provision has been made for an expiry date for the sale of pickles and sauces containing benzoic acid as a preservative, so that, theoretically, the sale of thousands of bottles and jars of such products became illegal overnight and have remained so.

The Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food Regulations, 1962, together with the Milk and Dairies (Emulsifiers and Stabilisers) Regulations, 1962, follow very nearly the lines suggested in the Report of the Food Standards Committee in 1961. The main difference is that definitions have been introduced in these regulations, which will fail to satisfy everyone. Thus an emulsifier is described as a substance which is capable of aiding the formation of a uniform dispersion of two or more immiscible substances and, in the opinion of your analyst, this is a natural definition which is

long overdue, but many authorities believe that an emulsion must be a suspension of one liquid in another. Similarly mixtures have been on the market for many years now called by the simple name clyceryl monostearate. Henceforth these mixtures of indefinite composition become partial clycerol esters, which in fact they are, although they often contain free stearic acid. On the other hand, the term interestification, not mentioned in the Draft Regulations, has now been employed to mean the polymerisation which takes place when castor oil is heated, whereas the word is known internationally among chemists to mean a rearrangement of fatty acid groups within a fat, which is quite a different thing.

The Pre-Packed Food (Weights and Measures: Marking) (Amendment) Regulations, 1962, the Food and Drugs (Legal Proceedings) Regulations, 1962, and the Milk and Dairies (Legal Proceedings) Regulations, 1962, enable Local Authorities, when taking proceedings for infringements of certain orders, to take action against persons other than the vendor, if they are thought to be responsible, thus making action under all food and drugs regulations similar to other infringements of the Act.

It will be noted that the Minister has introduced the custom of bringing in statutory regulations for foods generally, and for milk separately. This is at times unfortunate as it implies, for example, that substances declared not to be preservatives, emulsifiers, or stabilisers within the meaning of the regulations may be added to milk. It remains to be seen how the courts will interpret these Regulations, if called upon to do so.

Certain manufacturers have always resented the idea of Food Standards Orders on the grounds that they restrict initiative and the Ministry has shown a tendency to reduce the number of such orders to a minimum, so long as the public are adequately protected. With this end in view the Food Standards (Table Jellies) (Amendment and Revocation) Regulations, 1962, revoke the existing standards for table jellies and table jelly crystals, but require manufacturers to label them in accordance with the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order.

During the year the Food Standards Committee of the Ministry issued four Reports dealing with:—

- (1) Canned Meat,
- (2) Hard, Soft and Cream Cheeses,
- (3) Dried Milk, and
- (4) Mineral Oil in Food.

The Report on Canned Meat endeavours to make all canned meat products fall into one of ten different categories for meat content and thus to prevent manufacturers lowering the recognised meat content of a product by giving it a slightly different name. The proposed groups are:— Canned meat 95 per cent, Canned mince meat 90 per cent, Canned meat with jelly 80 per cent, Canned meat with gravy 75 per cent, Canned meat with sauce 65 per cent, Canned meat with cereal 80 per cent, Meat loaf 65 per cent, Meat loaf with stuffing 50 per cent, Canned meat with vegetables 35 per cent, Canned meat with pastry 45 per cent, Canned meat puddings 35 per cent, Canned meat pies 25 per cent, Canned sausage 50 per cent, Canned pork sausage 65 per cent. Any other canned meat product 35 per cent. In general this is a very satisfactory grouping, though it would be difficult to bring products such as canned raviolis containing meat into the category of canned meat with pastry. Similarly one already finds certain manufacturers flavouring stews with onion and claiming, therefore, that the product falls within the definition of canned meat with vegetables, which is not the intention of the report. Probably the most contentious proposal in the report is that of the proposed limit of 30 per cent for fat in canned pork products, other than bacon, sausages, and chops, which should be allowed to contain 50 per cent. Danish manufacturers suggested that pork luncheon meats and similar products should be allowed to contain 50 per cent of their meat content as fat. Your analyst has examined many hundreds of samples of pork luncheon meat and finds that an average fat content is 38 per cent, a figure with which Danish manufacturers inform him they would be content.

Another report, which is to be welcomed, is that on the composition of Hard, Soft and Cream Cheeses. One of the difficulties concerned with standards for cheese is that of reconciling the water and fat contents. This has been very successfully dealt with in the report by suggesting that the maximum moisture content of most hard cheese should be 40 per cent, but that 42 per cent should be allowed in Derby, Leicester, or Blue Stilton, 44 per cent in Cheshire, Gloucester, or Double Gloucester, 46 per cent in Caerphilly, Wensleydale or White Stilton, and 48 per cent in Lancashire cheese. After allowing for this moisture the milk fat on the dry matter should be not less than 48 per cent. It is further proposed that cheeses of foreign origin should conform to the standards for the named cheese laid down in the country of origin of the particular variety. The standards proposed for cream cheese are 45 per cent of milk fat and for double cream cheese, 65 per cent. The standard suggested for soft cheese is a minimum of 20

per cent milk fat and 60 per cent water. Other proposals are put forward for medium fat soft cheese, skimmed milk soft cheese, full fat curd cheese, and medium fat curd cheese. Most of the proposals are excellent, but one would have liked to see mention made of the so-called "cottage cheese" of which a considerable amount is sold, but presumably this would have to be described either as "medium fat curd cheese" or "skimmed milk soft cheese". It is not proposed to relate the fat content of cheeses to the dry matter except in the case of hard cheese.

The report on Dried Milk is intended largely to bring our present regulations into line with the proposals of F.A.O. and is, therefore, to be welcomed, even if one is not entirely in agreement, because it will make for a general simplification of international trade. It is suggested that dried milk should contain not less than 26 per cent of milk fat and not more than 5 per cent of moisture, and that partly dried skimmed milk powder should contain not less than 1.5 per cent of milk fat nor more than 5 per cent of moisture with the proviso that when sold in containers of 10 lbs. or less, the fat content should be declared and the product labelled as at present to the effect that it is not to be used for babies except on medical advice. Dried machine-skimmed milk would have to be labelled as unfit for babies.

It is suggested in the report on the use of Mineral Oil in Food that generally no alteration should be made to existing regulations, but that the sealing of eggs and of the rind of whole pressed cheeses should be permitted and, what is more important, that any paraffin wax or paraffin oil used for food purposes should be at least of B.P. quality. It would be useful if this last provision could be extended to apply to packing materials in which fruit is packed, since apples are frequently contaminated with paraffin due, possibly, to the use of paraffin on packing material round the fruit, though it is impossible to state definitely whether or not the apples have been polished with paraffin.

Although the Hygiene Regulations already cover the sale of milk, milk drinks, and similar beverages from automatic machines, it may not be out of place to mention that special legislation may eventually be needed for their more effective control. Members of your analyst's staff have, on more than one occasion, bought chocolate milk drinks from automatic machines and have found them to be mouldy on opening. Unfortunately such purchases are generally made some distance from one's home and it is, therefore, difficult to make complaints.

Article	Number samples examined			Number adulterated, etc.		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Alcoholic Drinks	24	—	24	—	—	—
Almond Oil	—	1	1	—	—	—
Baby Food, Milk	—	1	1	—	—	—
Baking Powder	—	2	2	—	—	—
Beverage, Malt	—	1	1	—	—	—
Biscuits, Slimming	—	1	1	—	—	—
Bread	—	2	2	—	2	2
Butter	—	4	4	—	—	—
Cakes & Pastries	—	2	2	—	1	1
Cake Mixtures	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee	—	2	2	—	—	—
Coffee & Chicory Essence	—	1	1	—	—	—
Confectionery	1	8	9	1	—	1
Cornflour	—	4	4	—	—	—
Cream	—	4	4	—	—	—
Curry with Rice	—	1	1	—	—	—
Dietary food	—	3	3	—	—	—
Fish Cakes	—	5	5	—	—	—
Fish Paste	—	3	3	—	—	—
Fish Potted	—	1	1	—	—	—
Flavouring	—	1	1	—	—	—
Flour	—	9	9	—	—	—
Fruit, fresh	—	42	42	—	—	—
Fruit Juice	—	4	4	—	—	—
Fruit Pie	—	1	1	—	1	1
Gelatine	—	2	2	—	—	—
Golden Raising Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Gravy Browning	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice Cream	—	4	4	—	—	—
Ice Cream Mix	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice Lolly	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice Lolly Liquid	—	1	1	—	1	1
Jam	—	2	2	—	—	—
Jelly	—	4	4	—	—	—
Lemon Curd	—	1	1	—	—	—
Margarine	—	4	4	—	—	—
Marmalade	—	1	1	—	—	—

Article	Number samples examined			Number adulterated, etc.		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Marzipan	—	1	1	—	1	1
Mayonnaise	—	3	3	—	—	—
MEAT PRODUCTS						
Canned Meats	—	12	12	—	3	3
Fresh Meats	—	8	8	—	2	2
Hamburgers	—	1	1	—	—	—
Paste, meat	—	2	2	—	—	—
Pâté, smoked pork	—	1	1	—	—	—
Potted meat, beef	—	2	2	—	—	—
Pudding, meat	—	2	2	—	—	—
Sausages	—	10	10	—	1	1
Milk	49	—	49	—	—	—
Milk, condensed	—	4	4	—	—	—
Milk Powder	—	3	3	—	—	—
Milk Shake Syrup	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mincemeat	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mint Jelly	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mustard	—	3	3	—	—	—
Olive Oil	—	1	1	—	—	—
Onions, sliced	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pepper	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pickles	—	1	1	—	—	—
Potato Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pudding, Christmas	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pudding, Sponge	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pudding, Tapioca, canned	—	1	1	—	—	—
Rice	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sauce	—	2	2	—	—	—
Soft Drinks	—	5	5	—	—	—
Soup Powder	—	3	3	—	—	—
Spices	—	2	2	—	—	—
Spread, Cheese	—	1	1	—	—	—
Spread, sweet	—	1	1	—	—	—
Stuffing	—	1	1	—	—	—
Suet, shredded	—	4	4	—	—	—
Sweetening Tablets	—	5	5	—	—	—

Article	Number samples examined			Number adulterated, etc.		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Tomatoes	—	4	4	—	—	—
Vinegar	—	1	1	—	—	—
DRUGS:						
Analgesic Alkaline Tablets	—	1	1	—	—	—
Analgesic Jelly	—	1	1	—	—	—
Aspirin Tablets	—	4	4	—	—	—
Cherry flavoured Linctus	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chest & Lung Balsam	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chlorodyne Linctus	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chocolate Laxative	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cod Liver Oil	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cold & Flu Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cough Syrup	—	4	4	—	—	—
Cough Mixture	—	1	1	—	—	—
Digestive Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Glycerine & Honey	—	1	1	—	—	—
Glycerine of Thymol	—	1	1	—	—	—
Halibut Oil	—	3	3	—	—	—
Indigestion Tablets	—	1	1	—	—	—
Iron Jelloids	—	1	1	—	—	—
Laxative Pills	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Glycerine & Honey Mixture	—	2	2	—	—	—
Pain Relieving Tablets	—	1	1	—	—	—
Parrish's Food	—	1	1	—	—	—
Peppermint Oil Lozenges	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sedative capsules	—	1	1	—	—	—
Throat Tablets	—	1	1	—	—	—
Throat Lozenges	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tonic Tablets	—	3	3	—	—	—
Travel Sickness Tablets	—	2	2	—	—	—
Vitamin Tablets	—	1	1	—	—	—
Yeast Tablets	—	1	1	—	—	—
	74	261	335	1	13	14